

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
WESTERN DIVISION

DEC 18 PM 2:53  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
TO: EDO

JILLIAN M. FITZENREITER,

3:06 CV 3006

Plaintiff

THE HONORABLE

vs.

JUDGE JAMES G. CARR

STEVE LECLERE, et al.

ANSWER OF MR. STEVE LECLERE  
AND TRI-LAM TRANSPORT, INC. TO  
THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT WITH  
JURY DEMAND ENDORSED HEREON

Defendants

Now come Defendants, Steve LeClere and Tri-Lam Transport, Inc., by and through undersigned counsel, and respectfully submit their Answer to the Complaint of Jillian Fitzenreiter.

**FIRST DEFENSE**

1. Defendants deny Paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22 of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

2. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as the truth of the averments contained in Paragraphs 3 and 5, but admit to Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Complaint.

3. Defendants emphatically deny that they owed a duty to Plaintiff or breached any duty to Plaintiff, or that any injuries are proximately related to any alleged breach.

4. Defendants deny any and all other averments contained herein not unqualifiedly admitted as true, and deny any and all "wherefore" clauses, and specifically reallege and reaver

all of its responses to incorporating Paragraph 16 of the Plaintiff's Complaint. Defendants did not act in a punitive manner under any circumstance.

5. In response to Paragraphs 11, 15, and 20, Defendants agree that this cause of action arose from a motor vehicle collision, but deny each and every averment in that the allegations are directed to issues to which it need not respond, but will agree to stipulate to certain facts upon the completion of substantial discovery, and so therefore each Paragraph is hereby denied. Defendants also deny any and all averments not unqualifiedly admitted as true.

### **SECOND DEFENSE**

6. If it is proven in trial that Defendants were negligent or liable in any other respect, all allegations of negligence and liability being expressly denied, then it is alleged that Plaintiff, Jillian Fitzenreiter, was negligent to a degree greater than the negligence of Defendants, and Plaintiff is, therefore, barred from recovery or, in the alternative, Plaintiff's claimed damages must be apportioned as required by the Ohio Comparative Negligence Statute.

### **THIRD DEFENSE**

7. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and denies the applicability of respondeat superior.

### **FOURTH DEFENSE**

8. Plaintiff's injuries and damages, if any were in fact sustained, were caused by independent, intervening, and/or superseding acts of negligence and Plaintiff is, therefore, barred from recovering against these Defendants.

### **FIFTH DEFENSE**

9. Plaintiff's Complaint has failed to join indispensable parties to this action as required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Plaintiff should be barred from introducing evidence as to any and all alleged damages paid by another party.

**SIXTH DEFENSE**

10. Plaintiff has failed to mitigate her damages.

**SEVENTH DEFENSE**

11. Plaintiff's injuries and damages, if any were in fact sustained, were caused by other persons, firms, entities, or conditions over which Defendants have no ownership, responsibility or control.

**EIGHTH DEFENSE**

12. Defendants allege that the subject accident was caused by a sudden emergency and/or conditions outside of their responsibility, ownership or control.

**NINTH DEFENSE**

13. Plaintiff, with full knowledge, understanding and awareness, assumed the risk of the injuries and damages allegedly sustained by her and Plaintiff is, therefore, barred from recovery.

**TENTH DEFENSE**

14. Defendants reserve the right to plead additional defenses as discovery so warrants.

**ELEVENTH DEFENSE**

15. Defendants assert the immunities and defenses enacted and provided by Ohio Senate Bill 120 (eff. 4-9-03), and Ohio Senate Bill 80 (eff. 4-7-05), and Defendants assert the defenses under R.C. 4513.263 that evidence of non-use of a seat belt is permitted for the purpose of reducing any non-economic damage award herein.

**TWELFTH DEFENSE**

16. The Plaintiff's Complaint and all claims thereto, against these Defendants are barred by the applicable statute of limitations, and Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed as not timely.

**THIRTEENTH DEFENSE**

17. The Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed on the grounds that this court lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the claims against these Defendants; lacks personal jurisdiction; and is improperly venued.

**FOURTEENTH DEFENSE**

18. The Plaintiff's Complaint has failed to plead a claim for punitive damages, and the imposition of such damages is otherwise unconstitutional.

**FIFTEENTH DEFENSE**

19. Defendants made reasonable and diligent attempts to seek resolution of any and all claims arising from this complaint for over one year, and that any claims for prejudgment interest are not relevant and should be barred.

WHEREFORE, Defendants demand that the Plaintiff's suit be dismissed at her costs, and that she go hence without recourse.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, DENNEHEY, WARNER,  
COLEMAN & GOGGIN

By: 

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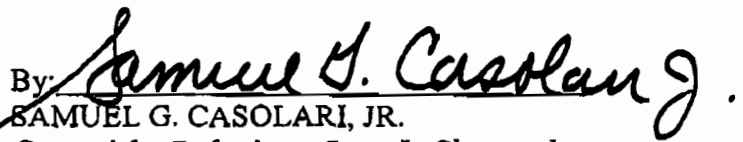
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*Counsel for Defendants Steve LeClere and  
Tri-Lam Transport, Inc.*

**JURY DEMAND**

Defendants demand a trial by jury on all triable issues of fact and law.

By:



SAMUEL G. CASOLARI, JR.

*Counsel for Defendants Steve LeClere and  
Tri-Lam Transport, Inc.*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded to all  
counsel of record by:

☐ Hand Delivery  
☒ U.S. First Class Mail, Postage Prepaid  
☐ Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested  
☐ Facsimile Transmittal

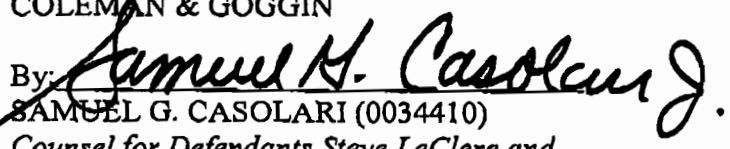
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By:   
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Date:

12/15/06